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MODEL STUDIES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A
DISCHARGE-MEASURING SYSTEM AT THE
WEST PORTAL OF ALVA B. ADAMS TUNNEL
COLORADO-BIG THOMPSON PROJECT, COLORADO

Laboratory Report No. Hyd-364

ENGINEERING LABORATORIES BRANCH



DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION DIVISION DENVER, COLORADO

#### FOREWORD

The model studies to determine and calibrate a satisfactory measuring device for the Alva B. Adams Tunnel were performed in the United States Bureau of Reclamation Hydraulic Laboratory during the first half of 1950, following the disclosure that the original measuring device did not perform as expected.

Engineers of the Hydraulic Laboratory working in cooperation with the Canals Branch developed a relatively simple measuring device, which could be added to the existing structure. Plans for construction and field measurements were performed by the South Platte River District while actual construction of the field device was done by the project office.

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# UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Design and Construction Division Engineering Laboratories Branch Denver, Colorado November 12, 1952 Laboratory Report No. Hyd.--364
Hydraulic Laboratory Section
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Subject: Model studies for the development of a discharge-measuring system at the West Portal of Alva B. Adams Tunnel-Colorado-Big Thompson Project, Colorado

#### SUMMARY

The model studies discussed in this report were made on a 1:10 scale model of the West Portal portion of Alva B. Adams Tunnel, Figure 2. The studies were necessary because with the operation of the prototype tunnel it was not possible to obtain satisfactory measurements of the discharge. The studies were therefore concerned with (1) why the original measuring system was unsatisfactory and (2) the development of a satisfactory measuring device that would require a minimum of changes and additions to the existing structure, and would be simple to operate.

In the tests on the original structure it was apparent why the depth at Station 7+00 could not be used to obtain the discharge. Flow passed through the converging transition section downstream from the gates at supercritical velocities causing standing waves in a diamond pattern to occur in the depth measuring region. This made the depth difficult to measure and the relationship between the depth and discharge was unsatisfactory.

The control gates were calibrated in the hope that the discharge could be determined from the gate opening and the reservoir elevation. The curves obtained, Figure 8, showed that accurate gate settings would be required to determine the discharge. Since this method was also complex in its operation the idea was discarded. Before the calibration four baffle piers had been installed downstream from the gates. They caused a hydraulic jump to form for all discharges which increased the depth of flow and eliminated the standing waves, but the flow was not sufficiently smooth to use the depth measuring piezometer at Station 7+00 for a discharge indicator.

Studies were then made with seven different weirs installed 20 feet downstream from the depth-measuring section. The weirs increased the depth and smoothed out the flow which resulted in discharge-rating curves, Figure 9, that were not affected by the tunnel depth downstream except for the higher discharges. A piezometer was provided at Station 8+17.5 to determine this downstream depth. The curved Weir B, 20 inches high, was recommended for installation in the prototype. Studies on the piezometer opening at Station 7+00 showed that the surge in the stilling-well was decreased by reducing the 8-inch pipe opening to a 2-inch opening. Calibration of the 20-inch weir, considering the depths of flow upstream and downstream, resulted in the discharge-capacity curves on Figure 17.

The baffle piers and 20-inch curved weir were installed in the prototype during May of 1950 and field measurements were made to check the model rating. The agreement was not as close as expected, so in March of 1951 personnel of the Hydraulic Laboratory inspected the installation and the 20-inch weir was replaced with a weir that conformed to the model weir. Field measurements were then found to be in good agreement with the model rating, Figure 20.

#### INTRODUCTION

The Alva B. Adams Tunnel is an outstanding feature of the Colorado-Big Thompson Project, Colorado, Figure 1. Water from the Colorado River drainage area on the Western Slope is diverted by the tunnel to the Big Thompson River on the Eastern Slope. The 9-foot 9-inch-diameter bore extends 13.1 miles under the Continental Divide from the entrance, or West Portal, Figure 2, at Grand Lake to the East Portal at Marys Lake. Water enters the tunnel from Grand Lake which is connected to Shadow Mountain Reservoir. The water surface in the two lakes is maintained between elevations 8365.0 and 8367.0 by either spilling water over the spillway at Shadow Mountain Dam or by pumping from Granby Reservoir. The designed capacity of the tunnel is 550 cfs and the depth of flow cannot exceed 8.45 feet because of the clearance necessary for power cables enclosed in a conduit suspended from the roof of the tunnel. The discharge is regulated by two 9- by 10-foot radial gates, Figure 3, located at the West Portal just downstream from the curved entrance structure.

The Colorado State Engineers' office requires an accurate record of the total amount of water diverted through the tunnel. For this purpose provision was made to record the depth of flow 100 feet downstream from the gate structure at Station 7+00. With the first operation of the tunnel, difficulty was experienced with this measuring system as a large surge occurred in the stilling-well making it difficult to determine the depth of flow. The relationship between

the depth of flow and the discharge was irregular because of the movement of the standing waves with a change in discharge. It was decided to develop a measuring device with the aid of a hydraulic model, and the results of these studies are described in this report.

#### THE 1:10 SCALE MODEL

The hydraulic model of the West Portal of the Alva B. Adams Tunnel was built to a scale of 1:10, resulting in a model tunnel diameter of 11.70 inches. The model represented 860 feet of prototype tunnel including the gate structure with 60 feet of double conduit upstream from the gates, Figure 4. The upstream end of the model was connected by a bellmouth entrance to a 6- by 4-foot head box built of wood and lined with sheet metal. A rock baffle in the head box smoothed out the flow entering the model. The inlet pipe was connected to the main laboratory supply line which contained Venturi meters for measuring the discharge. The maximum tunnel capacity of 550 cfs was represented by 1.74 cfs in the model. The gate structure was built of wood and was lined with sheet metal except that the right-side wall was made of transparent plastic. The gates were constructed of sheet metal and the center pier was built of wood. Thirteen feet of the model downstream from the gate structure was built of transparent plastic which represented 50 feet of transition and 80 feet of tunnel. The remaining 64.5 feet of the model was of metal pipe. A plastic stilling-well containing a hook gage was connected to Station 7+00 to determine the depth of flow. A similar arrangement was used to obtain the depth of flow at Station 8+17.5. A point gage was used for measuring the water-surface elevation in the head box. The upstream section of the model is shown in Figure 5.

With the scale ratio of 1:10 the smooth surfaces of the model tunnel represented very nearly the roughness of the concrete surfaces of the prototype tunnel. Calculations showed that with the prototype tunnel discharging freely the flow would be below normal depth for a distance of 3,000 feet upstream from the exit. This would require a model length of 300 feet to obtain normal depth of flow, so it was necessary to install a slide gate at the tunnel exit to adjust the depth of flow to that which would occur in the prototype.

#### THE INVESTIGATION

# The Original Structure

Operation. The original West Portal structure, Figure 3, was investigated with the model. The extent of the structure contained in the model is shown in Figure 4. Operation was at various discharges

up to the maximum of 550 cfs prototype At each discharge the depth of water was set to correspond to the normal depth of flow in the tunnel, considering steady uniform flow in which the slope of the water surface was parallel to the slope of the bottom. The normal depth was computed using a roughness value of Manning's n=0.014. The elevation of the water surface upstream from the gates was also set to that which would occur with the water surface of the lake maintained between elevations 8365, 0 and 8367, 0. At low discharges the gate openings were small and a high-velocity jet issued from under the gates as shown for a discharge of 100 and 200 cfs, Figures 6A and 6B. The depth of flow was less than critical. Standing waves were formed in the transition section and extended downstream in the tunnel beyond the depth-measuring section. This rough water surface caused a large surge in the stilling-well connected to a piezometer at Station 7+00. With a change in discharge the position of the standing waves shifted so that an irregular relationship occurred between the elevation of the water surface in the stilling-well and the discharge. With higher discharges the waves were less pronounced and the depth at Station 7+00 gave a better indication of the discharge. When operating with one gate open, the waves were larger than with two gates open. The maximum discharge that could be passed with one gate open was about 300 cfs.

These tests on the original structure showed why the prototype measuring system was unsatisfactory. The remaining model studies were made with minor modifications to the structure to develop a reliable flow-measuring system.

# Changes in the Structure

Baffle piers. The first modification to the structure was the addition of four baffle piers located 11.3 feet downstream from the gatehouse, as shown in Figure 7A. Each baffle was an 18-inch cube placed in the path of the high-velocity flow issuing from under the radial gates. When the model was operated a hydraulic jump formed, Figure 7B, resulting in an increase in the depth of flow and a smoother water surface in the tunnel. The improvement in flow due to the baffles can be seen by comparing Figure 6A with Figure 7B. This smoother and lower velocity flow was a better condition for determination of the discharge by the depth method. The maximum discharge of 550 cfs could be passed through the structure with the baffle piers in place so they were retained in the model for all subsequent tests.

Gate calibration. With the baffle piers installed the gates were calibrated since this was one possible method that could be used to determine the flow through the tunnel. For each discharge the two gates were opened equally and the corresponding computed normal depth of flow was set in the tunnel. The elevation of the water upstream from the

gates was read after allowing time for the flow to stabilize. Discharge-capacity curves obtained from these tests are shown in Figure 8. The wide spacing of the curves at the lower discharges indicates that accurate setting of the gates is necessary to determine the discharge satisfactorily in this manner. These curves are only for the special case of normal depth flow in the tunnel. In the general case, for all conditions of flow, it is necessary to know the elevation of the water surface downstream from the gates, especially for the larger discharges. Since the gate openings and the two water-surface elevations must be continually recorded, the gate calibration method for determining the discharge through the tunnel was not considered practical. Tests were continued, therefore, using the depth at Station 7+00 as a means of obtaining the discharge.

Curved weirs. With the baffle blocks in place the discharge-rating curve at Station 7+00 corresponds to the computed normal depth which is shown by the dotted line in Figure 9. The normal depth curve is subject to change with a change in the roughness of the tunnel walls due to growth of moss or other conditions. It was decided to use a weir at Station 7+20 which would act as a control and increase the depth of flow at Station 7+00. The depth of flow in the tunnel would then have less effect on the depth upstream from the weir. Four curved weirs, A, B, C, and D, Figure 10A, varying in height from 12 to 24 inches, were tested in the model.

With Curved Weir A, 24 inches high installed, the depth was increased at Station 7+00 and the water surface was more uniform than occurred without the weir. Discharge-rating curves were obtained for the four heights of curved weirs and these are shown in Figure 9. In all tests the depth downstream from the weir at Station 8+17.5 was maintained at the normal depth shown by the dotted line in Figure 9. The submergence point or discharge at which a change in the depth downstream from the weir affected the depth at Station 7+00 was as follows: Weir A 450 cfs, B 400 cfs, C 350 cfs, and D 300 cfs. Appearance of the flow in the tunnel for a discharge of 300 cfs with Weirs' B, C, and D installed is shown in Figure 11. Water-surface profiles for Weirs B, C, and D are shown in Figure 12 for discharges of 100, 500, and 550 cfs. The clearance between the water surface and the crown of the tunnel was sufficient for the power conduits with the 20inch Weir B. The 24-inch Weir A was too high since the water came in contact with the power conduits at a discharge of 550 cfs. These tests with the curved weirs indicated that the performance was most satisfactory with the 20-inch weir. The weir submerged at a discharge of 400 cfs, and permitted the passage of 550 cfs without interference with the power conduit.

Sharp weirs. Tests were made with three weirs with plane surfaces since they would be easier to construct. Two weirs, E and F, had a flat crest, Figure 10B, and Weir G had a vee crest, Figure 10C. Flow conditions with these weirs were similar to that obtained with the curved weirs except that the flow was not as smooth. Energy-loss tests were made on the sharp weirs with a discharge of 550 cfs and compared with similar tests made on the curved weirs, Figure 13. The loss was less using the curved weirs and also less with lower weirs. After considering the losses and the conditions of flow, the Curved Weir B 20-inch height, was recommended for installation in the prototype.

Piezometer at Station 7+00. With the baffle blocks and 20-inch Weir B in place the surge in the stilling-well was measured for various flow conditions with an equivalent 8-inch piezometer opening at Station 7+00, Figure 14A. The maximum surge of over 0.18 foot, as shown in the figure, was considered excessive, so tests were made with the opening reduced to 2 inches by the two arrangements shown in Figures 14B and 14C. In both cases the surge was reduced to about one-fourth of that occurring with the 8-inch opening. The 2-inch opening in the 5/16-inch plate, Figure 14C, was recommended since this arrangement gave the least surge as shown in the figure.

## The Recommended Structure

Operation. The recommended structure, Figure 15, had four 18-inch cubic baffle piers 11.3 feet downstream from the gate structure and a curved weir 20 inches high at Station 7+20. Piezometer openings at Stations 7+00 and 8+17.5 were connected to two separate stillingwells to record the depth of flow at these two sections. As discussed under the curved-weir studies, smooth flow occurred throughout the structure at all discharges. The appearance of the flow from the gates to the downstream side of the weir is shown in Figure 16 for a discharge of 400 cfs.

Calibration. Discharge-rating curves were obtained with the recommended baffle piers and 20-inch curved weir installed as shown in Figure 15. For various discharges through the structure the water surface upstream from the gates was not allowed to exceed the maximum lake elevation 8367.00. After allowing time for the flow to stabilize, the depth at Station 7+00 was read using a hook gage in a stilling-well. The depth downstream from the weir at Station 8+17.5 was also obtained by this method. The tunnel discharge is related to the depth readings in the manner shown by the curves on Figure 17. In the figure the depths are expressed as the head above the crest of the curved weir. For discharges under 300 cfs, only the head  $\rm H_1$  upstream from the weir is needed to obtain the discharge. For greater flows the head  $\rm H_2$  downstream from the crest can become large enough to influence the head  $\rm H_1$ . In this case the discharge is read by entering the curves with the given

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value of H<sub>1</sub> and the appropriate H<sub>1</sub> - H<sub>2</sub> curve. A calibration of the prototype tunnel could be made without recording H<sub>2</sub>, but if the tunnel roughness should change due to growth of moss or wear to the surface, the value of H<sub>2</sub> would change, resulting in a change in H<sub>1</sub>. Thus, H<sub>2</sub> is included to provide a more general calibration that will not require as frequent check measurements in the field. For convenience in obtaining the discharge, the curves are given in tabular form in Figures 18 and 19. The discharge rating as obtained with the 1:10 scale model was considered reliable, but the Colorado State Engineers' office wished to check the accuracy of the curves with field measurements.

#### THE PROTOTYPE STRUCTURE

## Recommended Measuring System

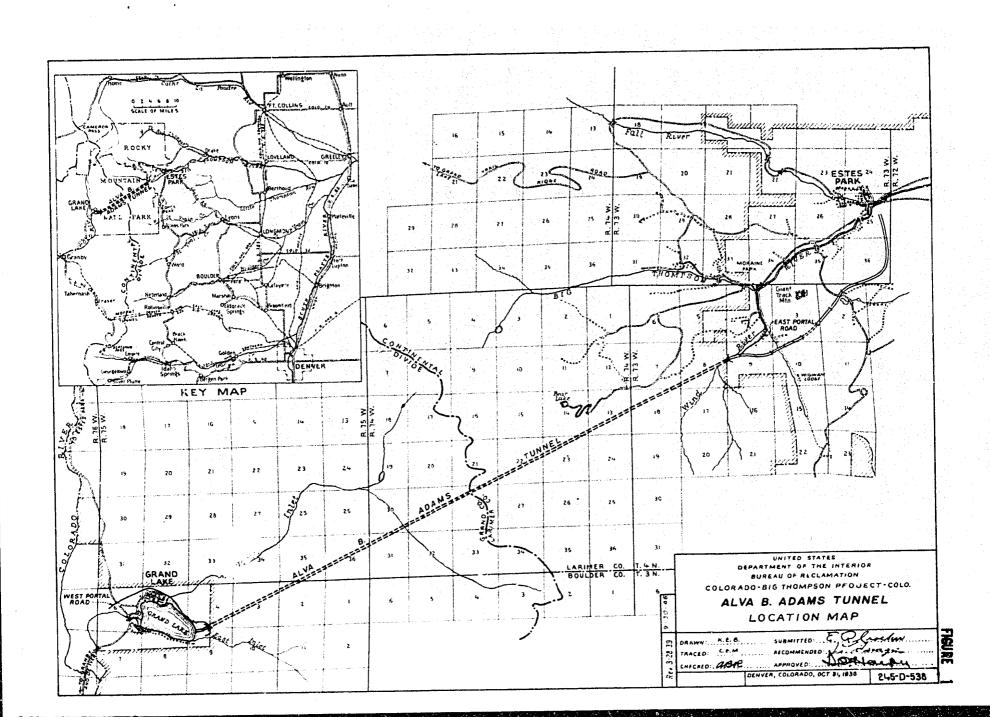
First installation and calibration. The four baffle piers and curved 20-inch weir recommended from the model studies were installed in the prototype tunnel before the operating season of 1950. An additional piezometer was also installed at Station 8+17.5, so that records were made of the depth of flow both upstream and downstream of the 20-inch weir. In compliance with the desire of Colorado State Engineers' office, a temporary Parshall flume was placed at the East Porta! Reservoir to check the accuracy of the 20-inch curved weir as a measuring device. Current meter measurements were used to calibrate the Parshall flume. The discharges indicated by the flume were greater than the discharges shown by the West Portal measuring system which was calibrated from the model studies. Since the discrepancy was too large to be accounted for by experimental error, it was decided to check the prototype installation to determine if the dimensions were in agreement with those used in the model.

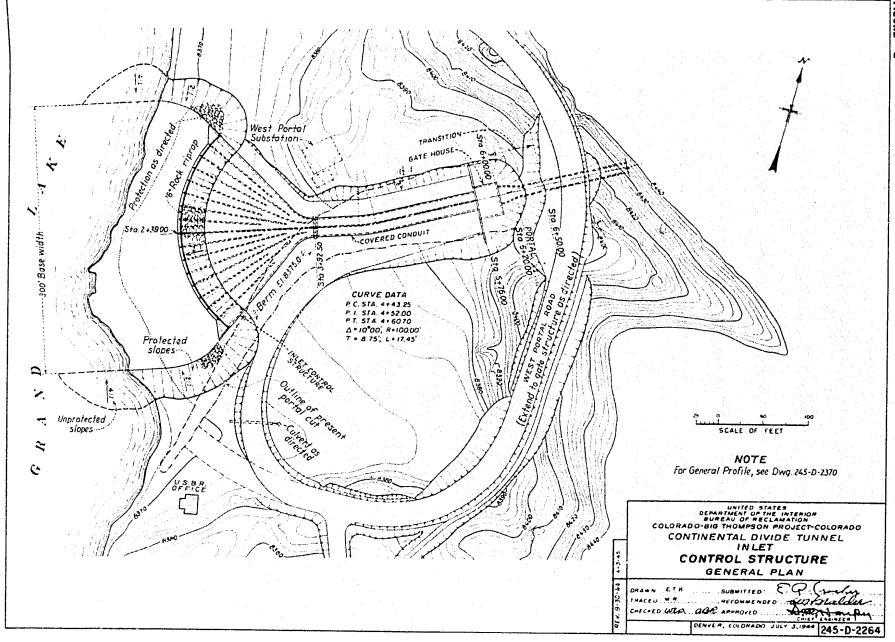
Second installation and calibration. In March of 1951 representatives of the Hydraulic Laboratory and the South Platte River District inspected the prototype installation 1/. The installation and condition of the four baffle piers downstream from the radial gates were found to be satisfactory. The shape of the 20-inch curved weir, in the direction of flow, did not agree with the one calibrated in the model. The upstream and downstream parts of the weir were flat instead of curved surfaces and the radius of the crest was too short. It was also found that the piezometer openings were not smooth and flush with the walls of the tunnel which could cause an error in determining the depth of flow.

<sup>1/</sup> Field Trip Report No. Hyd-1099.

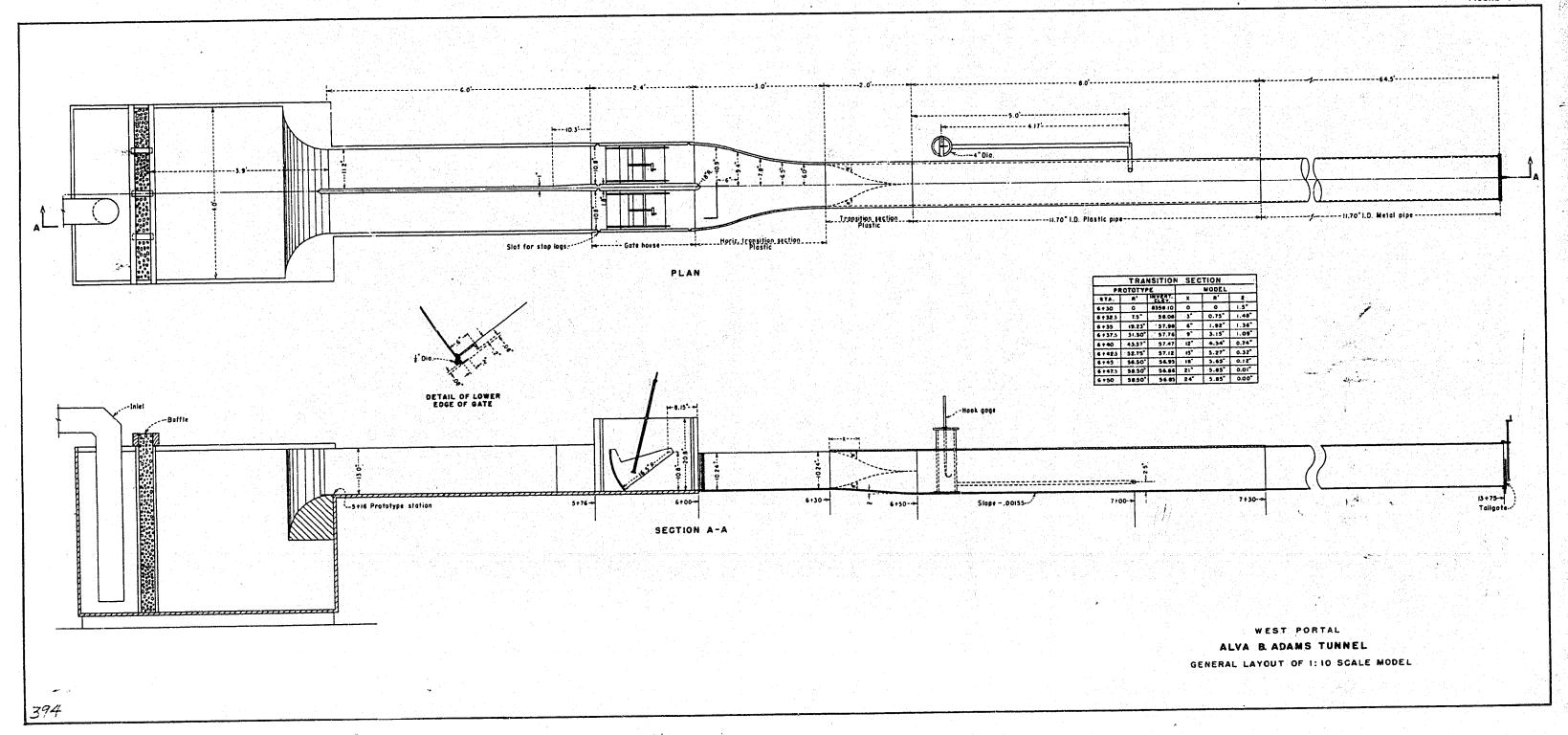
Prior to the operating season of 1951, the 20-inch curved weir was replaced with a weir having the shape and dimensions corresponding to the one used in the model studies. The piezometer openings were also repaired to give a smooth surface to the tunnel wall.

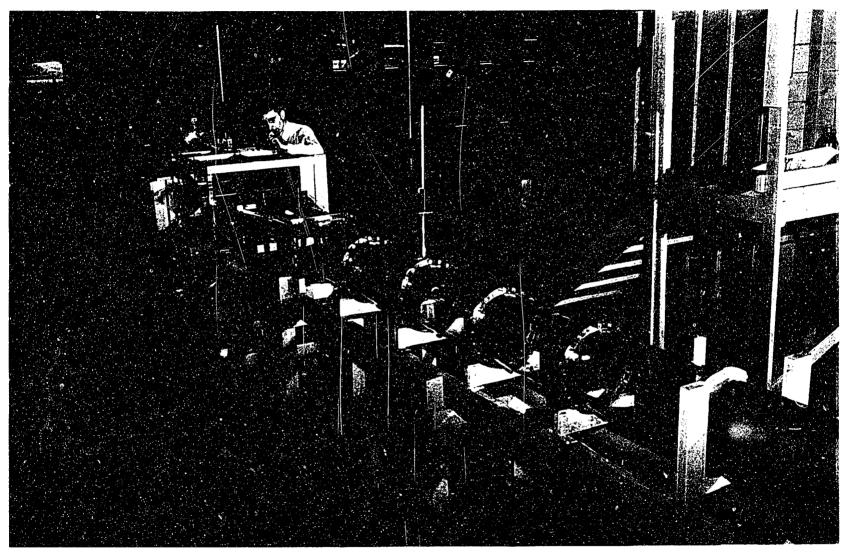
The West Portal measuring system was calibrated in the field by making discharge measurements with a current meter in the double conduit section upstream from the radial gates. The results obtained from these measurements are plotted on Figure 20 together with the model envelope curve from Figure 17. The agreement between the field measurements and the model calibration is considered satisfactory.







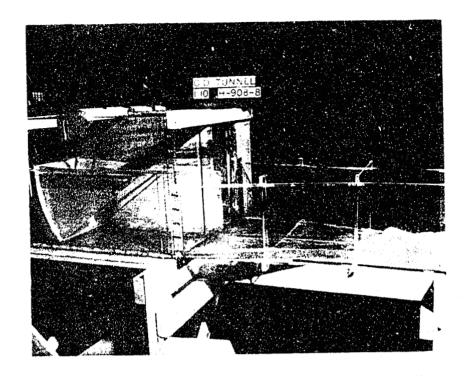




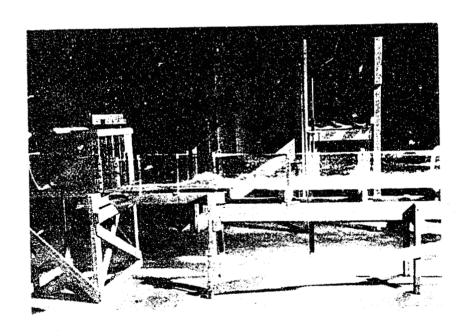
VIEW OF THE SCALE MODEL. WEST PORTAL - ALVA B. ADAMS TUNNED



VIEW OF 1:10 SCALE MODEL WEST PORTAL - ALVA B. ADAMS TUNNEL

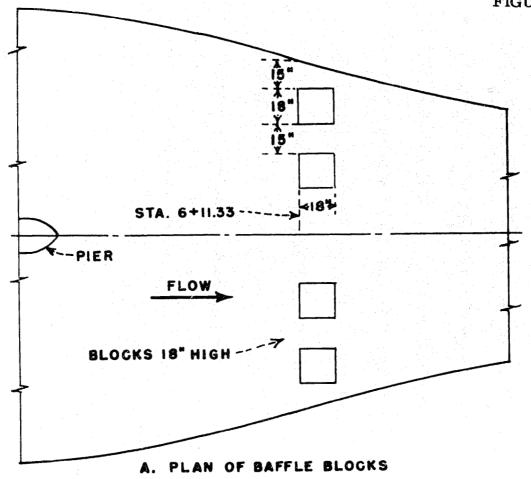


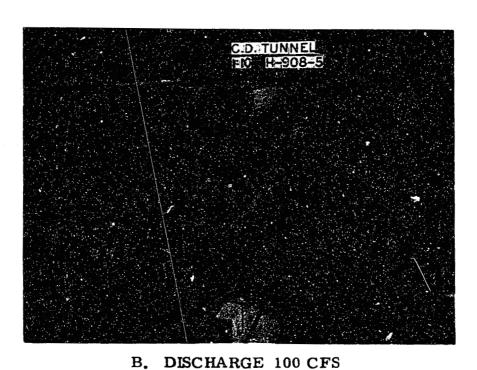
A. DISCHARGE 100 CFS



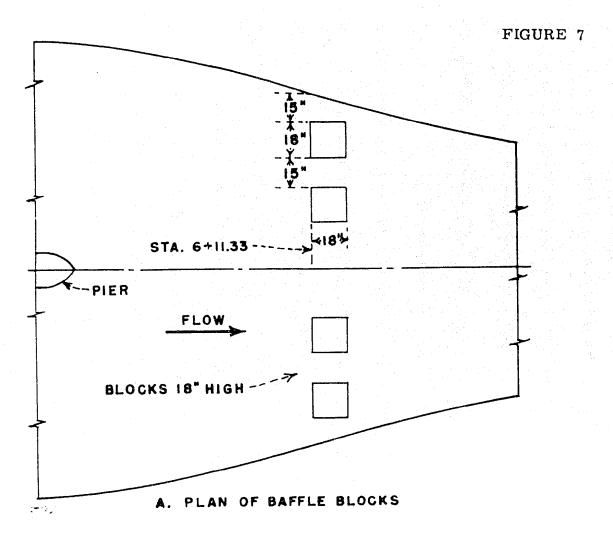
B. DISCHARGE 200 CFS

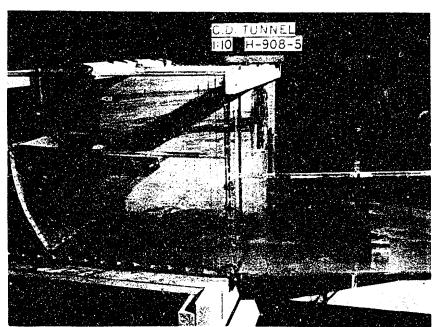
FLOW IN ORIGINAL STRUCTURE WEST PORTAL - ALVA B, ADAMS TUNNEL





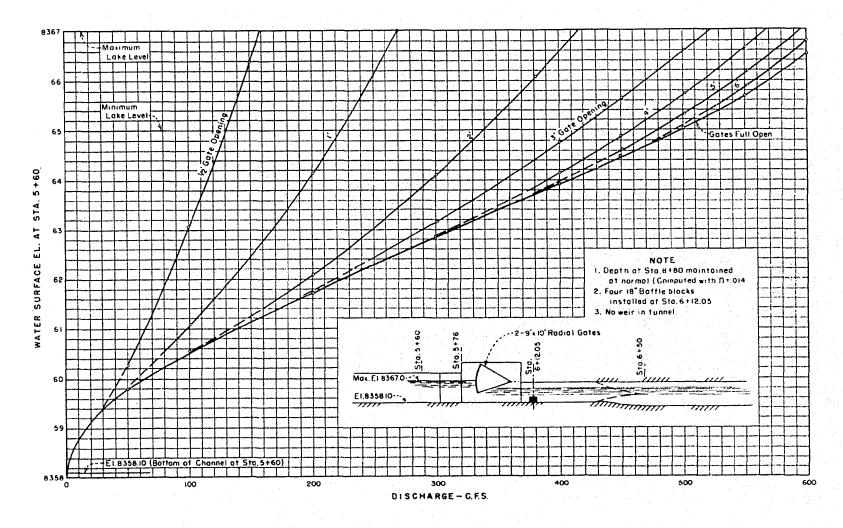
BAFFLE PIERS INSTALLED
WEST PORTAL - ALVA B. ADAMS TUNNEL





B. DISCHARGE 100 CFS

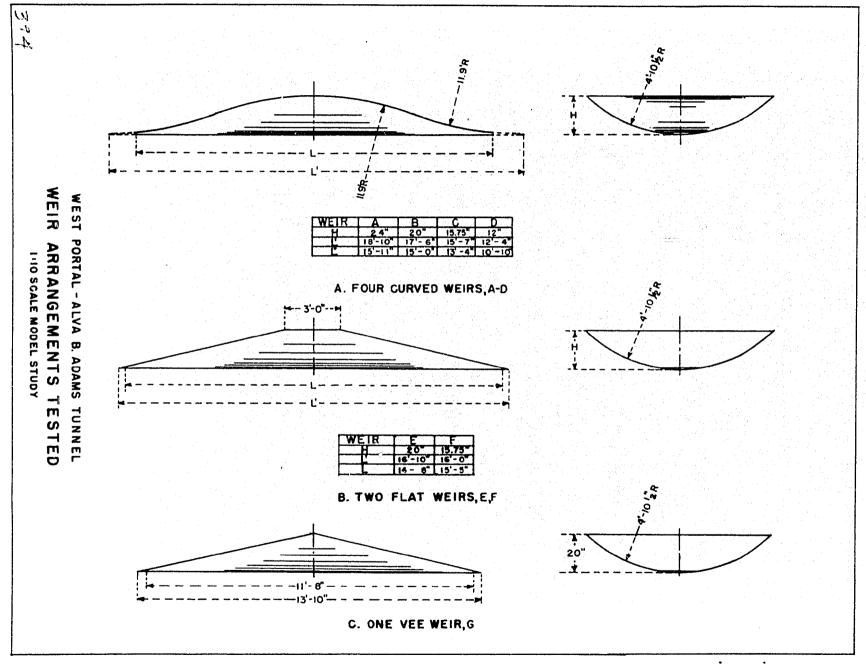
BAFFLE PIERS INSTALLED WEST PORTAL - ALVA B. ADAMS TUNNEL

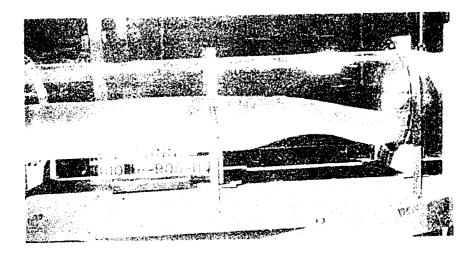


GATES DISCHARGE CAPACITY WITH NORMAL TAILWATER
1:10 SCALE MODEL STUDY

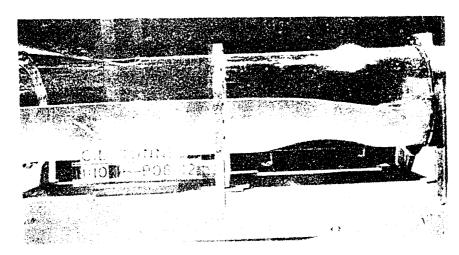
592

IGURE 9

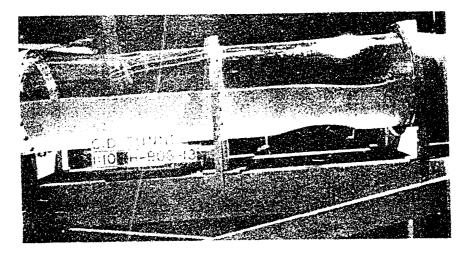




 $A_s = 20^{11} \text{ WEIR B}$ 



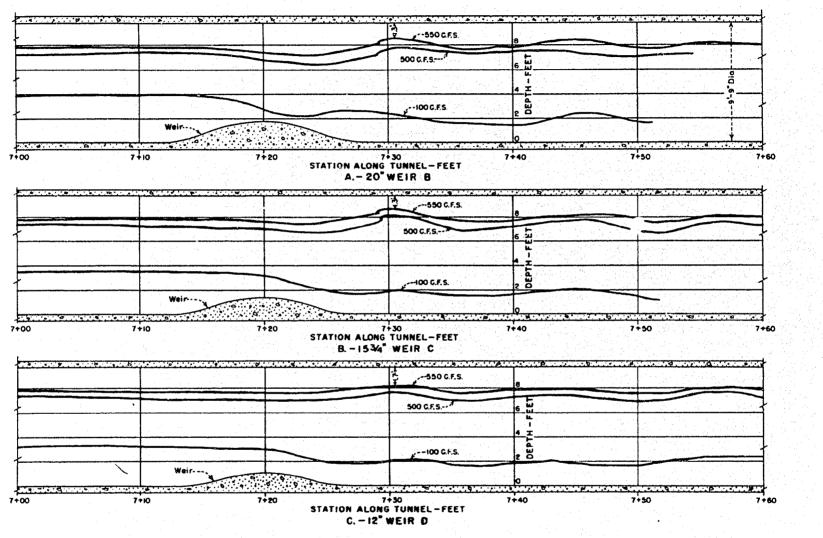
B. 15-3/4" WEIR C



C. 12" WEIR D

PLOW IN TUNNED. DISCHARGE 300 CFS CUPVED WEDEN INSUMEDED. WEST PORTED. SEVER, SDAMS TUNNEL.





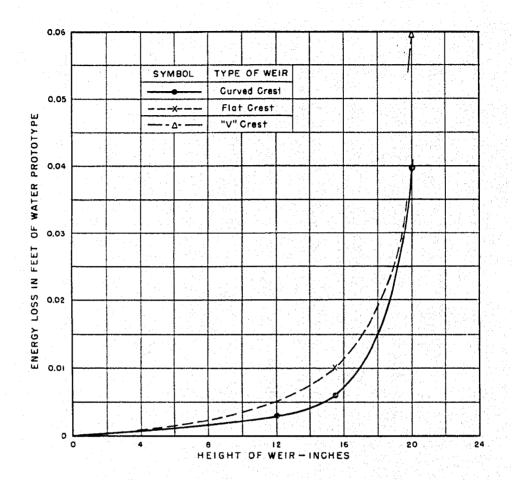
WEST PORTAL - ALVA B. ADAMS TUNNEL WATER SURFACE PROFILES

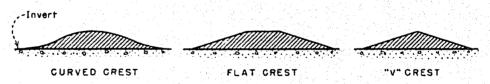
1: 10 SCALE MODEL STUDY

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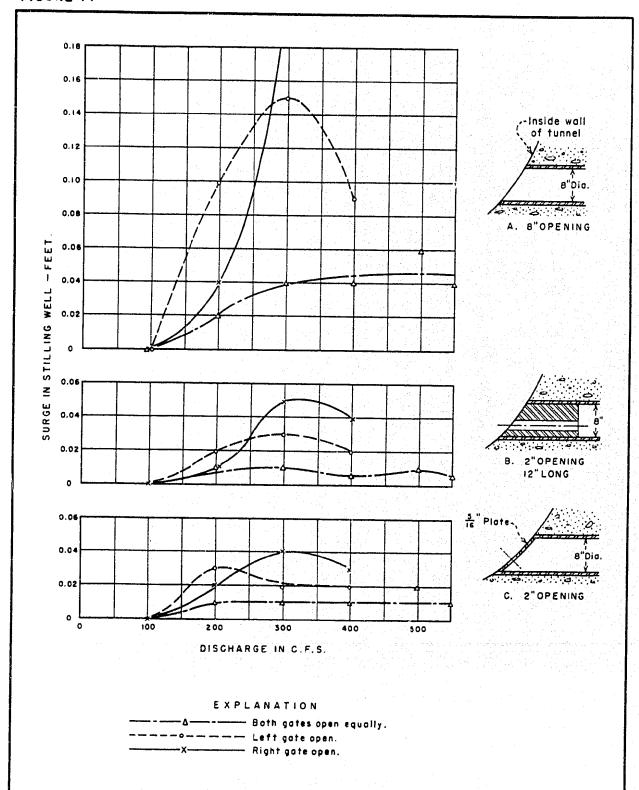
SECTIONS THROUGH WEIRS ON TUNNEL &

WEST PORTAL-ALVA B. ADAMS TUNNEL

ENERGY LOSS DUE TO WEIRS WITH DISCHARGE OF 550 C.F.S.

1: 10 SCALE MODEL STUDY

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WEST PORTAL - ALVA B. ADAMS TUNNEL
STILLING WELL SURGE .
FOR THREE TYPES PIEZOMETERS AT STA. 7+00
1:10 SCALE MODEL STUDY

394

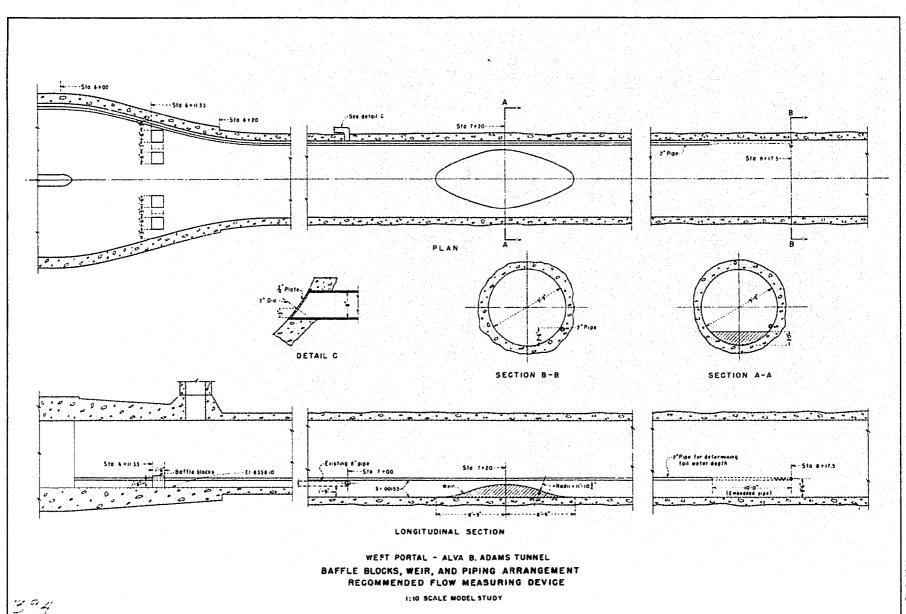
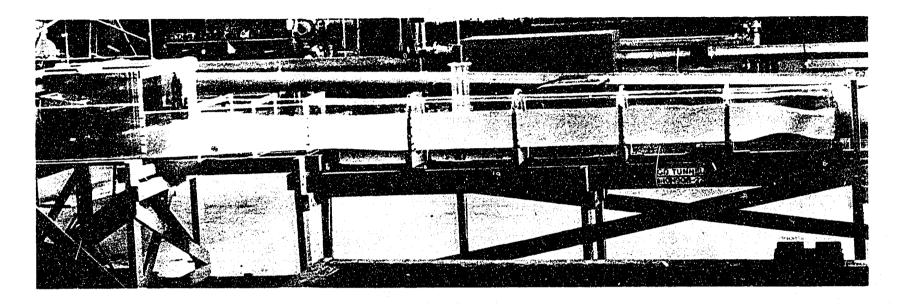
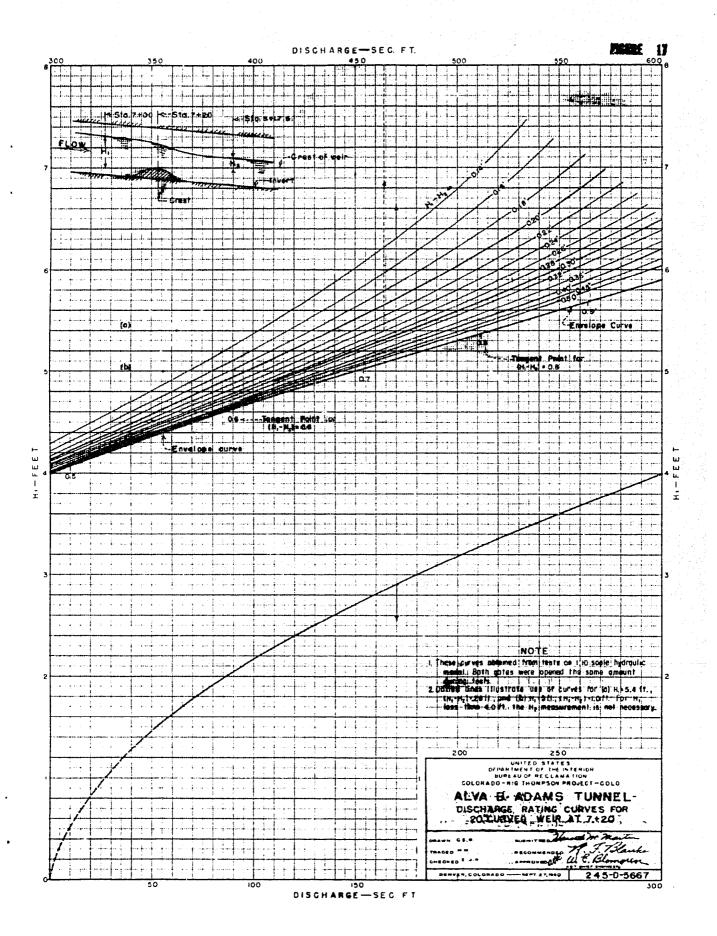


FIGURE 1



FLOW IN TUNNEL - DISCHARGE 400 CFS
BAFFLE BLOCKS AND 20" CURVED WEIR INSTALLED RECOMMENDED
WEST PORTAL - ALVA B. ADAMS TUNNEL



# COLORADO-BIG THOMPSON PROJECT--COLORADO ALVA B. ADAMS TURREL

# Discharge Rating Tables for 20-Inch Curved Weir at Station 7+20 (Both control gates open the same amount)

Table 1
Discharge in second feet for values of H1 from 1.0 to 4.0

H <sub>1</sub> feet	1	0	1	0.1	1	0.2	: :	0.3	:	0.4	1	0.5	:	0.6	:	0.7	:	0.8	0.9
2	1	27.0 86.0 180	2	94	1	102		111	8	120		129	3	139	8	149		71.6 159 275	169
4	:	301	1				:				:		:		:				. ~~

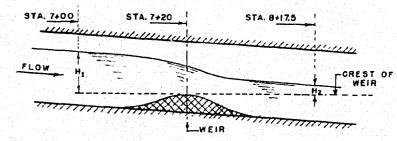


Table 2

SECTION ON & OF TUNNEL

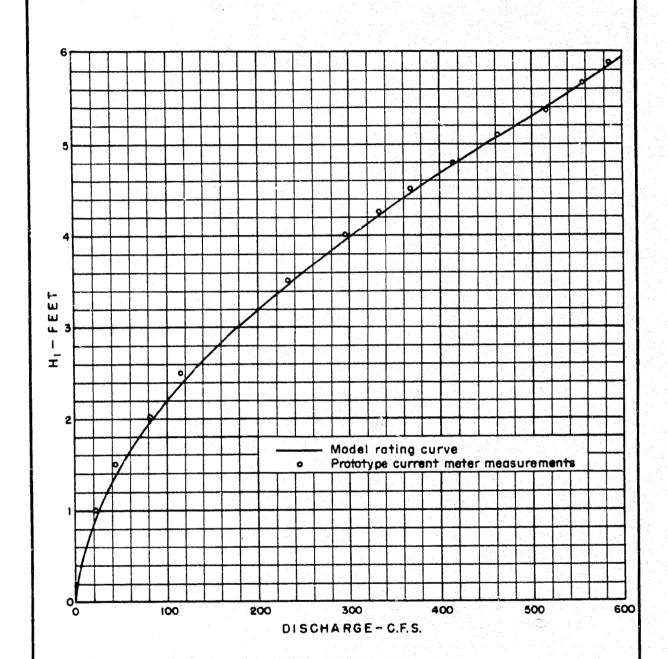
										D1:	CPST	<u> 20</u>	in a	BOC	ed f	<del>36</del> ,	t for	Y	alves	01	רצו	$\overline{\mathbf{u}}$	<b>08</b> 4,	<u>0 1</u>	£0 7.€	0			4.7	<i>.</i>	<u>e e elsa</u>			1 2		
														, ·		!	(H <sub>1</sub> -H	2)	feet	;		1			200	5						٠,	She	901	t 1 o	ſ 2
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Table 2--continued

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The above data are based on studies of a 1:10 scale hydraulic model. Drawing No. 245-D-5667 is a graph of the same data.

For values of  $H_1$  less than 4.0 feet the  $H_2$  measurement is not necessary (Table 1).



WEST PORTAL - ALVA B. ADAMS TUNNEL
DISCHARGE RATING CURVE, 20" CURVED WEIR
MODEL PROTOTYPE COMPARISON

1:10 SCALE MODEL STUDY